

Welcome!

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 28, 2025 – 8:30am

To Our Guests: We are honored that you have chosen to worship with us today! Please stop by our Welcome Desk for more information about all our ministries. Please read below for more information about worshipping with us.

We love children at Christ Our Savior. Parents are encouraged to sit in the front pews so young children can see what is happening during worship. A nursery for children, infant to 3 yrs, and a family lounge off the Advent Lobby are available for those who prefer these areas. Ask an usher for directions.

Joyful Giving Opportunities: The offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary. You are welcome to place your offering there before and after the worship services. Or give online! Click on the QR code to the right. →



Please check in with the Friendship Pad or Online. Remove the Friendship pad from the hymn rack on the center aisle and fill out your information. Take note of the people sitting around you – welcome each other by name! Or check in online by clicking here: →



We welcome guests to Sunday School and Bible classes, from 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Join us January 4, 2026 for new Bible studies. Check the Update for details.

AS WE GATHER

The stores are processing gift returns, but we dare not return our greatest Christmas gift—our Lord Jesus! God is gracious and forgiving, remembering His promises. He leads us, as we hear He did for the Israelites in the Old Testament Reading. We need no one else, as we are God's dear children, which Paul reminds us in the Epistle. It is not that we do not have enemies—even Joseph had to figure out what to do—but we have Jesus with us. It is still Christmas.

Order of Worship

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Frankie Rogers

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ Preparation ✠

OPENING HYMN

"Let All Together Praise Our God"

LSB 389

- 1. Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
To give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.**
- 2. He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne, Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall, Lies in a humble stall.**
- 3. Within an earthborn form He hides His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might, The splendor of His might.**

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INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 111:1–6

- P** Praise the LORD!
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
C **in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**
P Great are the works of the LORD,
C **studied by all who delight in them.**
P Full of splendor and majesty is His work,
C **and His righteousness endures forever.**
P He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;
C **the LORD is gracious and merciful.**
P He provides food for those who fear Him;
C **He remembers His covenant forever.**
P He has shown His people the power of His works,
C **in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

HYMN

"Let All Together Praise Our God"

4. **He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name, His glory, and His name.**
5. **He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He, No truer friend than He.**

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PSALM

Psalm 111:7–10

- P** The works of His hands are faithful and just;
all His precepts are trustworthy;
- C** **they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**
- P** He sent redemption to His people;
He has commanded His covenant forever.
- C** **Holy and awesome is His name!**
- P** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
- C** **His praise endures forever!**

HYMN

"Let All Together Praise Our God"

6. **He is the key and He the door To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise, To God our praises rise.**
- △ 7. **Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore; We praise You evermore.**

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Galatians 4:4; Isaiah 63:14

- P** O Lord God, we confess that although we usually prepare for, as Paul put it, "the fullness of time," that is not true in our personal lives.
- C** **Forgive our impatience for taking matters into our own hands, forgive our not trusting that You are in control of all things, and forgive our failing to acknowledge You above all else.**

- P** We confess, O Lord, that unlike obedient Joseph, we have not always listened to Your commands and instructions.
- C** **Forgive our desire to be in control, forgive our avoiding difficult decisions, and forgive our thinking that we are able to arrange all things for our own benefit.**
- P** We confess, O Lord, that we have kept our faith to ourselves.
- C** **Forgive us for not giving Your leading us "a glorious name," forgive our failure to ask You for guidance each day, and forgive our seeking to be like everyone else, rather than trusting You.**
- P** Forgiveness has been won for you! The babe born in Bethlehem is the only-begotten Son of God and your elder Brother. The Spirit urges you to cry, "Abba! Father!" As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

HYMN

"Joy to the World"

LSB 387

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

✠ Service of the Word ✠

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature.
- C** **Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 63:7–14

(Although the Israelites have rebelled, God will help them.)

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. ⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. ¹¹Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, ¹²who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"God Loves Me Dearly"

LSB 392

1. **God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.**
2. **I was in slav'ry, Sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working To make me free.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.**

EPISTLE

(All God's promises are sure because we are God's children.)

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**3. He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus And set me free.**

**Refrain: Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.**

**5. Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal;
Now I will praise You All my life long. Refrain**

HOLY GOSPEL

(The holy family is protected from Herod.)

Matthew 2:13–23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." ¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." ¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON HYMN

"What Child Is This"

LSB 370

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!
2. Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!
3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

SERMON

"Our Identity"

Galatians 4:4-7

THIS IS WHAT WE BELIEVE

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

*The ushers bring forward our gifts as a response to His blessings in our lives.
Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary both before and after services.
Or give online using the QR code in the front of the bulletin.*

PRAYER AT OFFERING

- P** Bless now, O Lord, these gifts and their benefits, that they might be received as evidence of your mercies, and multiplied in effectiveness for Your kingdom. Through this and other acts of giving, train our hearts toward a greater generosity, that the habits of our stewardship lives may be ever more pleasing to You, and ever more expressive of Your holy heart and passions.
- C** **All that I have is Yours, Lord Jesus. All that I have is You.**
- P** Use then these gifts for works of love and mercy, and unto the increase of Your glory.
- C** **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us go to our heavenly Father in prayer. For the church, that the news of Christ's birth among us would bring joy to many people, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who have rebelled against all that our caring God has lavished upon them and that He would open their hearts and minds, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who have not heard about Jesus' birth, about our Savior's willingness to be a servant of the Most High, or about their own salvation, that God would surround them with people of faith and the Gospel Good News, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who tend fields, raise animals, distribute food, or work in supermarkets and roadside stands, that they recognize that they work to alleviate hunger and do what pleases our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the leaders of the nations, those who bear arms, and all who run toward harm to help those who need aid and rescue, that they stop at nothing to establish and maintain peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those near and dear to us . . . , that God would alleviate suffering and pain, sadness and grief in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of our elder Brother and Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- [P]** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray,
[C] **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- [P]** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*
[C] **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"

LSB 390

- 1. Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.**
- 2. To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in gladness.**
- 3. We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.**
- 4. Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us.**

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS –

Preaching: Pastor Davenport
Liturgy: Vicar Fritz Quitmeyer
Piano: Frankie Rogers
Elder: Chris Trapp
Lector: Michele Ciscon
Acolyte: Ellie Shingledecker
Altar Guild: Jenny Krauss and Mary Scheidies
Greeter: Lori Wiltenburg
Media Team: Bill Stiem, Liesl Young, Joe Young
Ushers: Team 11, Steve Milz, Captain
Dan Diaz, Robert Law, Mike Puterbaugh, Sam Puterbaugh,
Mike Scheidies

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